

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
31 March 2005 (31.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/028632 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C08B 37/00**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/030666
- (22) International Filing Date:  
20 September 2004 (20.09.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/504,392 19 September 2003 (19.09.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:  
— *with international search report*
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
16 June 2005
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



WO 2005/028632 A3

(54) Title: **HYALURONAN (HA) ESTERIFICATION VIA ACYLATION TECHNIQUE FOR MOLDABLE DEVICES**

(57) Abstract: A series of novel, melt- or mold-processable HA esters with varying aliphatic chain lengths are synthesized from silyl HA-quaternary (quat.) ammonium salt complex (preferably silyl HA-CTA, a silylated HA complex with cetyltrimethyl ammonium salt). Introduction of aliphatic acyl groups, preferably acid chlorides, to disrupt the strong HA intermolecular bonding, is done *via* acylation. Acylation takes place at the oxygen of the trimethylsilyloxy group -O-Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> in the silyl HA-CTA by removal of trimethylsilyl groups therefrom. Optionally, crosslinking may be performed during the shaping/molding of the HA esters into a structure/device, or thereafter, if at all. Native HA can then be regenerated/recovered by saponification/ hydrolysis, removing acyl groups, -CH<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>10</sub>CO, and the cetyltrimethyl ammonium salt groups, -CTA, from HA ester. The structure/device of a preselected shape (*e.g.*, porous or solid, bulk structure or fibers) may become a component of an assembly, a product that is further processed, integrated into another component (*e.g.*, laminated, adhered, assembled, further shaped, chemically-intermixed/intermingled), and so on.